



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TIDEWATER COUNCIL

2025 WINTER CAMP
PIPSICO SCOUT RESERVATION



WINTER CAMP 2025

JANUARY 17 - 20, 2025

GUIDE BOOK

(LAST UPDATED 1/20/24)



TIDEWATER COUNCIL, BSA
1032 HEATHERWOOD DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23455
WWW.TIDEWATERBSA.COM

PIPSICO SCOUT RESERVATION
57 PIPSICO ROAD
SPRING GROVE, VA 23881
WWW.PIPSICOBSA.COM



2025 WINTER CAMP

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WINTER CAMP INFORMATION

When January 17- 20, 2025 (Friday – Monday)

Be Prepared. There is no rain/snow date for camp. All units should prepare for foul weather.

What Experience cold weather camping, Advancement, Training and Fun Opportunities

Where Pipsico Scout Reservation
57 Pipsico Road
Spring Grove, VA 23881

Contact Wes Parker
VP of Camping Operations
757-635-2696
Email: wparker@pipsicobsa.com

Christy Cooper
Staff Adviser
(208) 597-6044
Email: Christy.Cooper@scouting.org



Register Register/ pay online by [CLICKING HERE](#). *If you have trouble registering, view these 3 min. videos: [PART 1](#) - [PART 2](#).* You may also Register online and pay using your unit's Council Store Account. Transactions and reservations are not complete until check-out is done with payment posted. Prior to arriving at the event, please finish the registration process by entering the names of all participants, both your and adult attending the event (this allows for fast check-in). ***This event fills up quickly and the transaction and reservation are not complete until check-out is done with payment posted.***

PLEASE READ- Online registration for *attendance* will begin on September 21st, 2024 at 10AM. See information provided under "[Merit Badge Session Sign ups](#)" for that schedule. Note that registration for this event normally fills up within 1 day after posting.

Cost **\$96** per Scout, **\$48** per adult (When paid in full before December 23rd, 2024)

\$116 per Scout, **\$68** per adult (When paying on or after December 23rd, 2024)

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 6TH, 2025

THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.

Reductions & Refunds If for any reason this event is canceled due to government regulations 100% of fees paid will be refunded. Other refund requests must be made on [Council's Refund Application](#) prior to the event and are subject to a 15% surcharge processing fee. Funds will be returned to the payee/unit via their store account or by check. Refunds will be granted only in the case of documented illness or family emergency. **NO refunds** can be given if notified **within 14 days of the event** as pre-paid expenses will already have been incurred. No refunds for partial attendance will be granted.

Registrants must pay for slots upon registration. Reductions in registrations can **ONLY** be made up to **14 days before the event**, unless the event sells out. Should the event sell out, the unit will be financially responsible for the full reservation. This is to limit over-booking on popular events. Requesting a reduction can **ONLY** be completed by emailing the event contacts and is subject to a 15% processing fee.

2025 WINTER CAMP

INTRODUCTION

The Tidewater Council, Boy Scouts of America welcomes you to Winter Camp at Pipsico Scout Reservation (PSR). This camp will provide a great opportunity for Scouts to hone their cold weather camping skills, provide a chance to complete advancement requirements, earn merit badges (some of which are not typically offered at summer camps) and have lots of fun!! Pipsico is a Nationally Accredited Camping Facility that follows and enforces all of the policies, rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America and the Tidewater Council.

For updates please refer to the Pipsico website at <http://PipsicoBSA.com> click on the “Special Events” link at the top of the page.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

All campers must be a registered member of Scouting America and in a Scouts BSA Troop or Sea Scout Ship.

MERIT BADGE INFORMATION

One of the main purposes of Winter Camp is to provide an opportunity to work on and earn merit badges. Per National BSA advancement policies, Scouts must have their Scoutmaster’s approval before beginning work on a merit badge. The camp will provide qualified merit badge counselors to present the merit badge material, and lead practical assignments and exercises.

Merit badge counselors will indicate on the Merit Badge Card (downloaded from the reports section of your online registration) what each Scout has completed at camp, but it is **ultimately the Scoutmaster’s responsibility to sign off on whether they feel the merit badge has been satisfactorily completed.**

MERIT BADGE SESSION SIGN-UPS

Each session will have a maximum number of scouts enrolled. Each Merit Badge Counselor determines the capacity of the group.

The Merit Badge & Course Offering Schedule will be posted on the website as a separate document/ guide in October. When you receive it, please review the Merit Badge Schedule. Make a copy of the Winter Camp Schedule form for each Scout attending Winter Camp. Meet with each Scout to discuss the merit badge(s) they are interested in and which one(s) are needed for their next rank advancement. Scouts should pick a 1st AND 2nd choice of merit badges. You will need their choices to continue onto step 2 in the enrollment process outlined below.

Merit Badge registration will be done ONLINE, and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and based on the availability of merit badge counselors. Online MB registration will be open starting at **10 AM on November 16th**. Once MB classes are full, they will automatically close. All registrations for the event and for MB sessions will be through Black Pug (SCOUTINGEVENT.COM/596).

Senior Scouts- Unit Leader’s; the Eagle required Merit Badges of Communications, Citizenship in the Nation, and Citizenship in the World are extremely detailed and popular badges. In order for Scouts to get the full educational benefit of these badges and to allow Scouts from every unit registering (needing these for rank advancement) the opportunity to register for these courses, we **STRONGLY SUGGEST** a minimum rank requirement **of at least First Class** to register Scouts for these three classes.

Interested in Counseling a Merit Badge?? Come with a positive outlook and aid every scout! To volunteer you must be a registered merit badge counselor, contact Wes Parker at wparker@pipsicobsa.com.

REMEMBER!! Scouts MUST bring to camp any pre-requirements for the merit badge(s) they are taking. Failure to do so will not make it possible to complete the merit badge at camp and the scout will be issued a partial complete.

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TENTATIVE WINTER CAMP DAILY SCHEDULE

Friday

5:30-10:00pm Check-in
9:30 SPL/SM Meeting and Cracker-barrel (Dining Hall)
10:00-11:00 Wind-down time
11:00 Taps (all quiet and fires out)

Saturday

7:00 am Reveille
7:10 am- 7:55 Breakfast (SITES 2 -7)
8:05 am Flags- Awesome Field
8:15 am – 8:45 Breakfast (SITES 8 – 12)
9:00 am-Noon Morning Sessions
12:15-1:30 Lunch (stops serving at 1:15)
2:00-5:00 pm Afternoon Sessions
5:15-6:00 pm Dinner (SITES 2 -7)
6:05 pm Flags- Awesome Field
6:10- 6:55 pm Dinner (SITES 8 – 12)
7:00 SPL/SM Meeting (OA Shelter)
7:30-8:30 pm Campfire - (w\skits by Troops & Flag Retirement)
11:00 pm Taps (all quiet and fires out)

Sunday

7:00 am Reveille
7:10 am- 7:55 Breakfast (SITES 2 -7)
8:05 am Flags- Awesome Field
8:15 am – 8:45 Breakfast (SITES 8 – 12)
9:00 am-Noon Morning Sessions
12:15-1:00 Lunch (stops serving at 1:15)
2:00-5:00 pm Afternoon Sessions
5:15-6:00 pm Dinner (SITES 2 -7)
6:05 pm Flags- Awesome Field
6:10- 6:55 pm Dinner (SITES 8 – 12)
7:00 SPL/SM Meeting (If Needed- Listen for announcements at flags)
8:00-8:30 pm Religious Service - (non-denominational Service in Dining Hall)
11:00 pm Taps (all quiet and fires out)

Monday

7:00 am Reveille
7:45 am Flags- Awesome Field
7:50 Breakfast (Eat & Go Burritos)
8:30-11:30 Morning Sessions Start (Note Earlier Time)
11:45 – 1 pm Pack and Check out of camp
1pm Camp All Clear

*Note: All meals will be prepared and served in the Dining Hall. Those with special dietary MUST indicate so in advance on their registration and then let Food Servers know so they can get your food.

**Field Uniforms (often called Class A), may be worn throughout the event, but are required for dinner, evening flags, and campfire.

Have a safe trip home!

Thank you for attending Winter Camp

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GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

CHECK-IN

Unit Check-in will be from **5:30 until 10:00 PM** on Friday evening at the Burton Center within Camp Lions (Base Camp). Do not arrive early, there will be no one to check you in, you may **NOT** enter the campsites.

For the safety of Scouts walking through camp, only vehicles pulling unit trailers are allowed beyond the yellow gates inside Base Camp. The trailer must be unhooked and parked in the designated area adjacent to your campsite. Unit trailers are NOT to be parked past the wooden post located inside the campsites. Tow vehicles are to be **immediately** moved to the front parking lot. All other vehicles are to stay in the parking lots and any additional gear or Scouts will have to hike in or can utilize one of the few available carts, located at the Burton Center. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. All late arriving adults and Scouts (including adults rotating in and out of camp) must check-in through the Burton Center. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

CHECK OUT

Leaders and Scouts leaving early from camp must check-out through the Burton Center. Scouts may not leave camp for any reason without the Scoutmaster or Advisor in charge of the unit, signing him out to an approved adult. Unless other written information is presented at check-in, Scouts will only be released from camp to their parent or legal guardian. An ID must be presented, and release form signed.

Following closing ceremonies on Monday, all units must depart by 1 PM. When ready for check-out, send a representative to the Burton Center so a commissioner can inspect your site. Units will receive their patches upon successful completion of their final site inspection. ONLY AFTER classes begin on Monday, will tow vehicles be allowed into the camping area.

MEALS

All meals for Winter Camp will be prepared and served inside the Dining Hall at the times noted on the schedule. Units **will not** need to prepare meals in the campsite. Food allergies/intolerances need to be reported in advance of camp to give the food service staff adequate opportunity to purchase and prepare alternate menus. Vegan diets cannot be accommodated. Vegan campers will need to bring meal supplements for their time at Pipsico. Only dietary restrictions listed on your medical form, signed by a physician; or religious dietary restrictions can be accommodated during your stay. Please indicate details on your online registration in the comments.

VISITORS & GUESTS

Visitors and guests are welcome; however, they must check in and out of camp through the Burton Center and be accompanied at all times with an adult leader from their unit. The unit leader in charge at Winter Camp is responsible for the behavior of all guests visiting their unit or its members. The Scoutmaster/ Advisor in charge is also responsible for ensuring that the unit's visitors and guests are aware of the camp's health and safety rules and procedures, and that they are followed. Visitors and guests are not permitted to spend the night.

ADULT LEADERS

All troops must ensure that they meet the BSA two-deep leadership requirement in camp at all times. BSA policy requires at least two adult leaders be in camp at all times; one must be 21 years or older. Leaders may rotate if necessary, but at least two adults must always be with the troop in camp. See Guide to Safe Scouting for clarification. You may share leadership with another troop assigned to your campsite. Troops may send Scouts as provisional campers if their troop cannot attend. Provisional Scouts will be incorporated into other troops. All campers must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.

UNIFORM

Troops are required to wear the official Field Uniform, often referred to as a "Class A" uniform during Check-in, Check-out, all campfire programs, Church Services, evening flags and dinner. At all other times participants may wear an activity uniform often referred to as Class B, consisting of a troop or camp T-shirt with Scout pants or shorts. Leaders must monitor their units to ensure that clothing reflects good taste and Scouting standards.

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WINTER CAMP RULES

- The Scout Oath and Law
- The Guide to Safe Scouting
- Leave No Trace
- NO fireworks, pets, firearms, electronic games, radios, walkie-talkies, TV's and CD/DVD/MP3/iPod players
- Scouts are not permitted to roam through campsites during scheduled activities
- Scouts are not permitted to leave the boundaries of Pipsico Scout Reservation
- Areas Off-limits are: Staff quarters (behind the dining hall), archery, shotgun & rifle ranges and the cliffs at the water front

CAMPSITES

You may indicate your top three choices for campsites in the registration notes on their online registration. We will try our best to accommodate you. As in the past, campsites will be assigned on space availability. There is a high probability that another troop or other troops, could be sharing the same campsite with you. Any troop who has adopted a campsite must have their deposit and request form in by December 21 to guarantee getting their adopted site.

Campers need to provide their own tents and beddings. All Pipsico tents and cots are in storage for the winter. Sites will be assigned based on registration date and Troop size. Units should set up their campsite with their unit number, an American Flag, unit flag, and patrol flags. Duty rosters and schedules are to be posted in their site.

TRADING POST

The trading post and the **“Snack Shack”** will be open during Winter Camp. Trading Post hours and Snack Shack hours may be different. These hours will be posted at camp. Be sure your Scouts and scouters stop in to see what they have and bring money for special winter camp merchandise!!

RELIGIOUS SERVICES - “A SCOUT IS REVERENT”

Scouts are encouraged to practice the faith of their family. In support of the twelfth point of the Scout Law, we will have two religious services Sunday night. A` Chapel Service will be held Sunday night at 8 PM in the OA Shelter.

WATER AND BATH FACILITIES

Drinking water will be available in all campsites with Base Camp, at the OA Shelter, and at the Gregson Center at the front of the Reservation. Units are encouraged to bring several 5-gallon containers for transporting water.

Primary bathroom facilities are latrines inside of each campsite and limited use enclosed toilet facilities are available (both male and female) at the front of the Reservation in the Gregson Center, within the Dining Hall, and at the Burton Center in Base Camp. **The shower house facility adjacent to Site 9 will be open for use.**

FLAG CEREMONIES

There are excellent times for Scouts who need to participate in a flag ceremony to fulfill this requirement during camp. Slots will be assigned according to the registration date. A backup unit will also be chosen for each slot. Scouts from one troop are welcome, and encouraged, to join with another troop to perform a single ceremony. Units should arrive 10 minutes prior to each ceremony to assemble and practice.

LEADER'S MEETINGS

The staff requests each unit's Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmasters or Advisors to meet in the Dining Hall at 9:30 PM on Friday. All other leader's meetings on the schedule **are placeholder's ONLY**. An announcement will be made at meals if these meetings will be needed. If they are, they will be at the times noted on the schedule taking place at the OA Shelter. Units are encouraged to provide constructive feedback to the staff at the evening Leaders Meetings. Additionally, please complete two Camp Evaluation forms per unit, one from the adults and one from the youth. Return them to the staff headquarters at check-out.

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SATURDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE

Each unit should be ready to perform a skit or song at the campfire. At the conclusion of the campfire on Saturday Night, there will be a Flag retirement ceremony conducted to properly pay respect to our Nations colors. Units having flags that they'd like to retire need to be turned in during check-in so they can be properly prepared.

STAFF

Weekend events are staffed by volunteers. The Boy Scouts of America is a volunteer run program. Every unit that participates in weekend events is expected to provide some form of contribution to the success of the event.

MEDICAL MATTERS-

MEDICALS

According to BSA Policy, all Scouts and leaders should complete an Annual Health and Medical Record form (parts A&B only) for all Scouting activities. This is just the health history form (excluding the physician's portion). **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNIT** to obtain and maintain copies of these forms for members of their unit at this event. Medical forms will NOT be turned in at check-in, however, unit leaders are required to inform the camp health officer or designee **at check-in** of campers with limitations, special needs or life-threatening circumstances. The official BSA form is located here: http://www.Scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

All prescription drugs are kept and administered by the unit. It is to be kept in a secured location out of the reach of the children. If medication requires refrigeration, it can be checked in with the Health Officer at check-in. Provide a list of medications, dosage (Medical part B) and to whom you are administering medication to when you check in with the Health Officer. By law, medications must be in a container with a typed label from the pharmacy. Medications shall be given only in accordance with the label. Handwritten changes will not be accepted.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

All units should bring a unit first aid kit and treat injuries within their capabilities. Units must report all injuries and other medical situations to the camp staff at the Health Lodge, even those they treat themselves. Qualified medical personnel will be on duty at the Health Lodge at all times. If necessary, the camp staff will contact emergency medical services and ambulance services using 911. Unit leaders are expected to control all medications within their units.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Pipsico Scout Reservation maintains emergency procedures to meet, and in some cases, exceed the standards set by the Boy Scouts of America. It is essential for everyone's safety that every member of your unit fully understands that these procedures exist - their life, your life, or someone else's life could depend on it. Please be sure to follow only instructions delivered by the staff chain of command. Likewise, if an emergency arises, or is brought to your attention, please notify the nearest staff member immediately so that we may launch the appropriate procedures. Do not attempt to resolve an emergency situation alone. Notify the nearest staff member. **In the event that an emergency arises, an alarm will sound** from the program administration building (Burton Center). When this alarm is heard, **all units and participants are required to assemble at Awesome Field** in front of the flag poles and await further instruction.

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES

Leaders are asked to review the Guide to Safe Scouting before attending camp and ensure compliance by their unit with policies as detailed in the Guide, particularly in respect of youth protection policies. Failure to comply with Guide to Safe Scouting and youth protection policies will result in disciplinary action. Key portions of the youth protection policies found in the Guide to Safe Scouting are reproduced below. Other Guide to Safe Scouting policies are also contained elsewhere in this guide.

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Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members and protect their own privacy at all times. Except in emergencies, adults and youth may not enter each other's designated sleeping and shower areas. Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required to attend this event. At least one (1) female adult over the age of 21 is required whenever female youth are present. No ScoutBSA youth may share a tent with an adult, regardless of whether or not they are his/ her own parent or guardian. Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female youth. Youth sharing tents must be no more than two years apart in age.

GENERAL POLICIES-

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & DRUGS

Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited. All prescription drugs are kept and administered by an adult within the unit. (See the Prescription Medications section above.)

CELL PHONE POLICY

We request that Scouts not take cell phones to program sessions or, at the very least, to turn them off during sessions. Use of cell phones during program sessions is inconsiderate to other participants and, in some cases, can be extremely dangerous.

FIRES, STOVES, TENTS & OPEN FLAMES

Fires will be authorized depending on the status of State and City fire prohibitions in effect for the weekend of the event. All ground fires are permitted in the fire rings at each camp site. The staff will update units on the current fire policy at check-in. Units must post water buckets or a fire extinguisher in the fire area. Cutting of live trees, shrubs, or vegetation is prohibited. Fire wood is available for free at the Ax Yard located near the OA Shelter.

For safety reasons, there are to be **no open flames in tents**. This ban on open flames in tents includes a ban on the use of matches, candles, kerosene, propane or liquid lanterns in tents. Lighting in tents is to be provided by battery-powered lanterns or flashlights only. It is, however, acceptable to use a lantern under a dining fly. All cooking fires, campfires and stoves are to be attended while they are burning. Fires are only to be built in designated areas and must be extinguished so that they are cold to the touch when unattended.

INITIATIONS, HAZING & MILITARY TRAINING

Corporal punishment, hazing, initiation of any sort, and military training and drill are not permitted in the BSA.

MONEY & VALUABLES

Each family must decide how much spending money a Scout should take to camp. Each Scout is, however, responsible for the safeguarding of their money and personal property. It is recommended that expensive cameras, watches, and personal entertainment devices be left at home. Regardless, all items should be clearly marked, with the scout's name and unit number.

PETS

No pets are allowed in camp. Please ensure that anyone planning to visit your troop during the week is also aware of this rule. Please provide advanced notice of required service animals. Note that we cannot control the behavior of the local inhabitants of the vastly wooded property.

RESTRICTED AREAS

The following areas are off limits to all campers: The Ranger's home and maintenance areas, camp staff living areas, the kitchen and food storage areas (except for authorized volunteers) any program area where staff is not present, and the cliffs along the James River. Scouts may visit the waterfront for beach combing or fishing only when staff is present or when accompanied by an adult leader. No entry into the river is permitted at any time.

SMOKING & VAPING

Anyone under 21 years old is prohibited from using tobacco in any form while at camp. Adults must do so out of sight of any and all youth members. Smoking and vaping is prohibited in any tent or building. Cigarette butts must be field stripped and placed in a trash receptacle. This includes E-cigarettes and Vaping products.

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TAPS/LIGHTS OUT

A Scout is courteous. All Scouts should be in their designated campsites at 10:30 PM to wind-down the day's activities. Taps is at 11 PM. Unit leaders must ensure that fires and lanterns are out and that all their youth have retreated to their tents and are quiet.

TELEPHONES

Should anyone need to contact a camper on an important matter, the number is (757) 349-6603. This is our business phone, and cannot be tied up with personal calls, so parents will not be able to speak to their children on this line. If adult leaders need to receive regular calls, bring a cell phone.

TRAILERS

If your unit plans on bringing a trailer, please provide this information in the registration notes on their online registration. Specific campsites have been designated for unit use when a unit has a trailer. The requesting unit is permitted to have one trailer in the designated area at the perimeter of their campsite until checkout.

TRASH DISPOSAL

Participants should practice Leave No Trace principles to the maximum extent practicable. If you packed it in - you pack it out! All units are expected to police their camping area and remove all trash to the dumpsters located behind the dining hall or at the front of camp near the barn. Trash that will not fit in the dumpsters becomes the responsibility of the unit to remove from the campground. Do not pile trash next to the dumpsters. If the dumpsters are full at time of checkout then units **MUST** pack out their trash and dispose of it properly.

VEHICLES IN CAMP

Since safety is our number one priority, vehicles are not permitted past the Burton Center parking lot unless authorized by the event staff for unit gear drop off. Any vehicle that is authorized to drive beyond the Burton Center must remain on the main road. Absolutely no vehicles are permitted on grass or in campsites. Likewise, no vehicles authorized in camp may block the loading dock at the rear of the Dining Hall. Vehicle owners, and operators, who drive beyond the Burton Center parking lot do so at their own risk. Tidewater Council will not accept responsibility for any vehicle damage within camp.

No other motorized vehicles (golf carts, etc.) will be allowed in camp at any time except for use by designated camp staff. If the need arises for a vehicle to be in camp, approval **MUST** first be obtained from the Event Chair and/ or the Camp Ranger (Evan Sommerfeld). Special arrangements will be available for special needs visitors, Scouts and Scouters as requested.

WEAPONS, KNIVES, FULL AXES, FIREWORKS, & FIREARMS

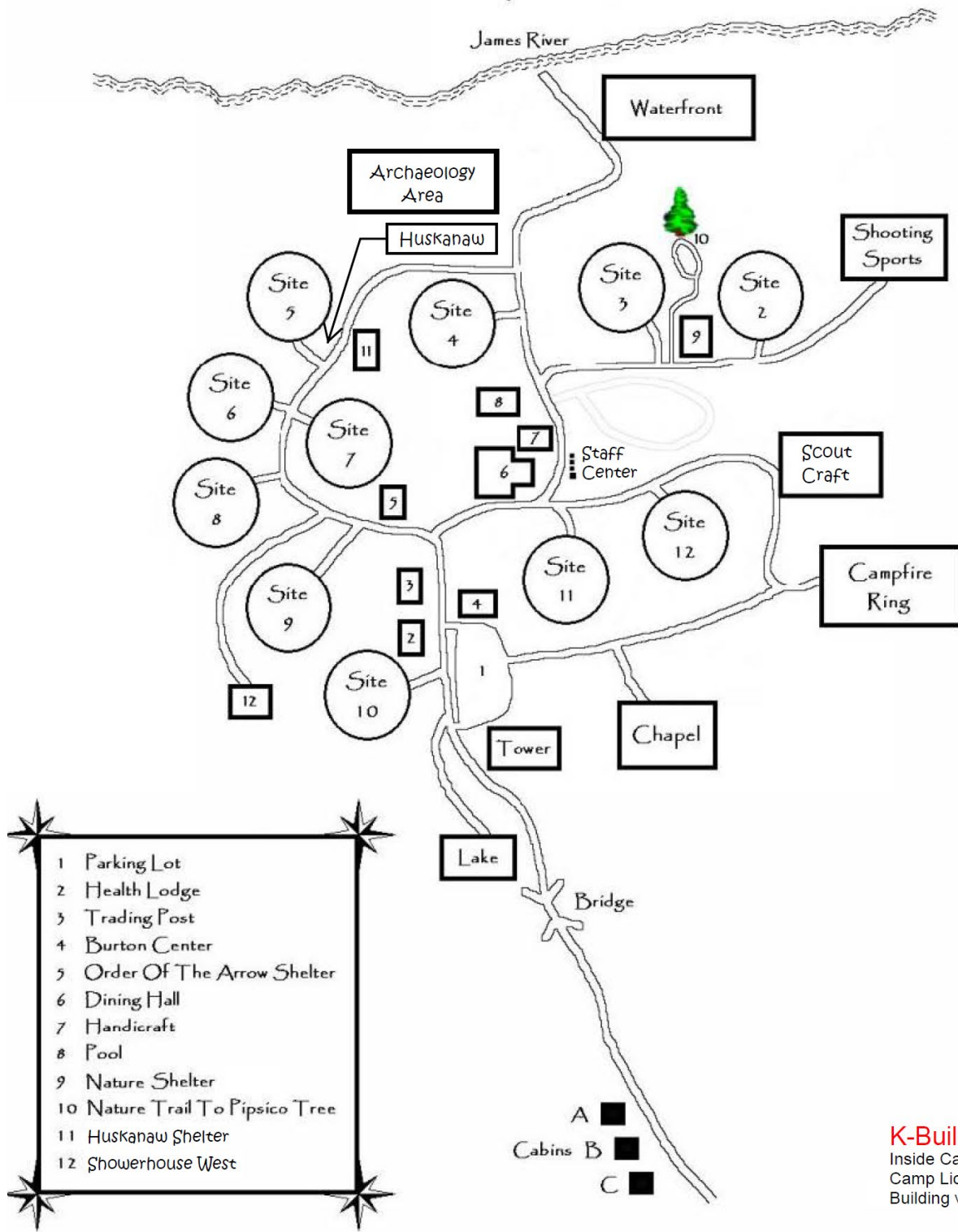
Pipsico provides all necessary and appropriate equipment for our shooting programs. Personal firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows are not permitted in camp. Also, no water guns are permitted at camp.

Pocketknives may be carried by adult leaders and any Scout who has earned the Totin' Chip or Whittling Chip. Fireworks & firearms of any kind are prohibited in camp. Law Enforcement Officers (LEO's), please notify the council prior to camp of any special requirements by your department.

WINTER CAMP MAP



Pipsico Scout Reservation Camp Lions



K-Building: (Must drive; Inside Camp Kiwanis. Leave Camp Lions, Enter Kiwanis Gate. Building with large 'K' on it.)

Maintenance Area-
(Near front of Camp, Large Tan Cinder Block Building)

Gregson Center-
(Large Building right when you turn onto Pipsico Property)